



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Tenth meeting

Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010

Agenda item 6.4

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS TENTH MEETING

X/37. Biofuels and biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision IX/2, in which it decided to consider at its tenth meeting ways and means to promote the positive and minimize the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity,

Recognizing that improved scientific, environmental and socio-economic research and assessments, open and transparent consultation, with the full and effective participation of the concerned indigenous and local communities, and sharing of best practices, are crucial needs for the continuing improvement of policy guidance and decision-making to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socioeconomic conditions and to address the gaps in scientific knowledge and concerns that exist regarding such impacts,

Noting the rapid pace of development of new technologies that enable conversion of biomass into a broader and more flexible range of fuels,

Acknowledging concerns that deployment of biofuel technologies, may result in increased demand for biomass and aggravate drivers of biodiversity loss, such as land use change, introduction of invasive alien species, bearing in mind paragraph 6 of decision X/38 of the Conference of the Parties, and resource over-consumption,

Also acknowledging the potential for biofuel technologies to make a positive contribution to mitigating climate change, another of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and generating additional income in rural areas,

Aware in particular of the potential positive and negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on the conservation and customary use of biodiversity by indigenous and local communities, and the consequences for their well-being,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the European Union for its financial contribution towards the regional workshops for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, and to the Government of Germany for the regional workshop for Africa and to the Governments of Brazil, Thailand and Ghana for hosting these workshops to facilitate active participation of the entire region;

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2. *Recognizes* that the impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity can affect, positively or negatively, related socio-economic conditions, including food and energy security, as well as the consideration of land tenure and resource rights, including water, where relevant for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *recognizing*, in particular, the implications for indigenous and local communities;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders to examine, and as appropriate, to further develop, based on scientific assessments on the impacts of biofuel production and use, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, voluntary conceptual frameworks for ways and means to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuel production and use developed by the three regional workshops. In further developing such voluntary conceptual frameworks, an effort should be made to focus the framework on the impacts of biofuels on biodiversity, and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socio-economic conditions and food and energy security resulting from the production and use of biofuels, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting in decision IX/2;

4. *Urges* Parties and other Governments, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities and in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders and relevant organizations, when carrying out scientific assessments of the impacts of biofuel production and use, to ensure that the sustainable agricultural practices and food and energy security of indigenous and local communities are addressed and respected, subject to national legislation, taking into account the customary laws of indigenous and local communities, where applicable;

5. *Recognizes* the need to include ways and means to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity, and on indigenous and local communities, in national plans, such as national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans, and *invites* Parties, as appropriate, to report in this regard as part of their fifth national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. *Invites* Parties to develop and implement policies that promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuel production and use on biological diversity, and the impacts on biodiversity that affect related socio-economic conditions, in particular by assessing both direct and indirect effects and impacts on biodiversity of the production and use of biofuels in their full life cycle as compared to that of other types of fuels;

7. *Invites* Parties, acknowledging different national conditions, other Governments and relevant organizations, bearing in mind ecosystem functions and services, to:

(a) Develop, national inventories so as to identify areas of high biodiversity value, critical ecosystems, and areas important to indigenous and local communities; and

(b) Assess and identify areas and, where appropriate, ecosystems that could be used in, or exempted from, the production of biofuels;

so as to assist policy-makers in applying appropriate conservation measures and identifying areas deemed inappropriate for biofuel feedstock production, to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities and stakeholders, applying relevant impact assessments;

8. *Invites* Parties, acknowledging different national conditions, other Governments and relevant organizations to elaborate supportive measures to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socio-economic conditions, taking into account paragraph 3 of decision IX/2 of the Conference of the Parties and the tools and guidance there contained;

9. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to address impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity and the services it provides, and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socio-economic conditions, in developing and implementing land-use and water policies and other relevant policies and/or strategies, in particular by addressing direct and indirect land use and water use changes affecting, amongst others, areas of high value for biodiversity and areas of cultural, religious and heritage interest and indigenous and local communities;

10. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to develop and use environmentally-sound technologies, and support the development of research programmes and undertake impact assessments, which promote the positive and minimise or avoid the negative impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socio-economic conditions;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

(a) Compile, analyse and summarize information on tools for voluntary use, including on available standards and methodologies to assess direct and indirect effects and impacts on biodiversity of the production and use of biofuels, in their full life cycle as compared to that of other types of fuels, and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socio-economic conditions;

(b) Carry out this work taking into account the work of, and in collaboration with, relevant partner organizations and processes, such as, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Energy Initiative, the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, the International Energy Agency, the Global Bio-Energy Partnership and other relevant organizations and multi-stakeholder initiatives, in order to reduce duplication of efforts. This work should take into account the outcomes of the regional workshops, and build on relevant decisions taken and guidance developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) Disseminate and facilitate access to the summarised information on tools through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means in order to assist Parties, the business sector and relevant stakeholders in applying ways and means to promote the positive and minimise or avoid the negative impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socioeconomic conditions;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information on gaps in available standards and methodologies identified in the work undertaken in paragraph 11 above and bring it to the attention of relevant organizations and processes and report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, consistent with the mandate of decision IX/2 of the Conference of the Parties, and taking into account paragraph 2 (b) of decision IX/5 of the Conference of the Parties, on forest biodiversity, as well as the results of ongoing thorough scientific assessment, to contribute to and assist with the ongoing work of relevant partner organizations and processes, as listed in paragraph 11 (b) above, to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuel and biomass for energy on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socioeconomic conditions;

14. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary experiences and results from assessments of the impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect related socioeconomic conditions, as well as activities identified in paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 above, to support the actions requested to the Executive Secretary in paragraph 13 above and *requests* the Executive Secretary to make such experiences and results available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism, and to report on the activities requested in paragraph 13 above to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

15. *Encourages* Parties, in particular developed countries, and *invites* other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to provide technical and/or financial support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to implement decision IX/2 and the current decision;

16. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the Preamble to the Convention, and the Cartagena Protocol, to the introduction and use of living modified organisms for the production of biofuels as well as to the field release of synthetic life, cell, or genome into the environment, acknowledging the entitlement of Parties, in accordance with domestic legislation, to suspend the release of synthetic life, cell, or genome into the environment;

17. *Recognizes* that the consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision X/12, should assist in providing guidance and clarity on synthetic biology, and *encourages* Parties to include relevant information on synthetic biology and biofuels when submitting information in response to paragraph 4 of decision X/12.
